



The Climbers

SOUVENIR

1986

MOTTO : "TO STRIVE, TO SEEK, TO FIND AND NOT TO YIELD"

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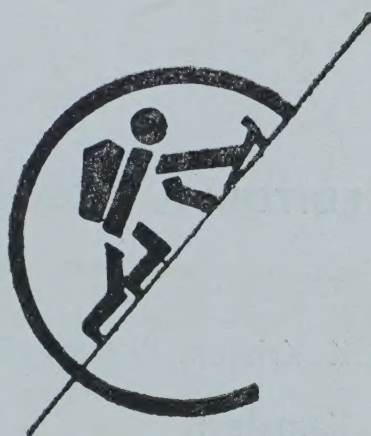


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SOUVENIR 1986



The Climbers

MOTTO :

TO STRIVE, TO SEEK, TO FIND, AND NOT TO YIELD

THE CLIMBERS (Regd.)

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Office of the Commissioner of
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Bangalore-1
Dated : 15-9-1986

To,

The Hon. Secretary,
The Climbers,
No. 561, 5th Cross,
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BANGALORE—560 038.

Sir/Madam,

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& Your compliance dated : —

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and that donations made to the above institution are exempt under Sec. 80G of the Income-tax Act in the hands of the donors subject to the limits prescribed therein.

2. The renewal of recognition granted under Sec. 80G is valid from 1-5-1986 to 30-4-1989 only.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(S.M. CHICKERMANE)
Commissioner of Income - tax,
Karnataka-II, Bangalore.

No. PRO/718/86/84/CIT-II

Office of the Commissioner of
Income-Tax, Karnataka II
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Commissioner of Income-tax,
Karnataka-II, Bangalore.

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The organisation also thanks individuals who have donated towards the Equipment Fund and well-wishers for their support to our endeavors.

RAJ BHAVAN
BANGALORE-560 001
24th July 1986

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that "The Climbers", a mountaineering organisation of Bangalore was able to climb, among others, the "Jogin Peak" during May-June 1985. I am also glad to know that the Association intends to bring out a souvenir so as to elucidate their achievements.

I take this opportunity to congratulate "The Climbers" and wish them greater success in their challenging task.

Sd/-
(A. N. BANERJI)
Governor of Karnataka

CHIEF MINISTER

Bangalore

Dt. 1. 8. 86

M E S S A G E

I am happy to know that 'The Climbers' a Registered organisation is encouraging the youths in mountaineering, rock climbing & trekking by conducting study courses and also giving practical training. I am sure the organisation will be a source of inspiration and guidance to the youth inclined towards adventurous activities.

I Wish the organisation and its members all success in their endeavours.

Sd/-
(RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE)
(Chief Minister)

Sri Krishnaprasad K.
'The Climbers',
561, 5th cross,
HAL IIInd Stage,
Indiranagar,
BANGALORE - 560 038.

ಕೆ. ಯು. ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ, ಐ.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್.

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

ಯುವಜನ ಸೇವಾ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗಳು

ಹಾಗೂ ಪದ ನಿಮಿತ್ತ ಅಪರ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

ಯುವಜನ ಸೇವಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-೫೬೦ ೦೦೧.

ದಿನಾಂಕ 31ನೇ ಜುಲೈ 86

ಅ.ಸ.ಪ.ಕ್ರ.ನಂ. ಡಿವೈಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್ : ಎಸ್ 5 : ಸ್ಪಾರ್ಕ್ : 85-86

ಶುಭ ಸಂದೇಶ

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(ಕೆ. ಯು. ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,

ಯುವಜನ ಸೇವಾ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ.

ಇವರಿಗೆ,

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,

ದಿ ಕ್ಲೈಂಬರ್ಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ,

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2ನೇ ಹಂತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 038.

Indian Mountaineering Foundation

H. C. Sarin

PRESIDENT

Tel : 633350 (Res.)
671211 (Off.)

14-A Friends Colony (West),
New Delhi-110 065

No, 28 (A) IMF/84

Dated 4th August 1986

I am glad to learn that The Climbers Club, Bangalore is bringing out a souvenir to mark the achievements of the Club.

I note with pleasure, that within a short period since its establishment in 1984 the Club has displayed commendable enthusiasm in rock climbing, mountaineering, river rafting and trekking activities and thus inculcating a spirit of adventure amongst the youth in its region.

It is worth noting here that two members of the Club had climbed peak Jogin III (6116m) in Gangotri Region, Garhwal Himalaya in June 1985.

I am sure the Club will continue its adventurous activities. I wish all success to the members of the Club.

Sd/-
(H.C. SARIN)

WE THANK.....

Members and Office Bearers of THE CLIMBERS are grateful to the following organisations and individuals for their support, encouragement and guidance towards furthuring mountaineering :

1. Indian Mountaineering Foundation, New Delhi
2. Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi
3. Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, Govt. of Karnataka
4. Army Adventure Foundation, New Delhi
5. District Youth Services Board, Bangalore
6. Madras Engineering Group & Centre, Bangalore.
7. Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling.
8. Mountaineering Institute & Allied Sports, Manali.
9. Yoganiketan, Gangotri.
10. Karnataka Mountaineering Council.
11. Mr. Thirunarayana Iyengar.
12. Mr. K. Gopinath.
13. Mr. J.C. Mohan.
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18. Prof. : M.N. Srinivas. I. I. Sc
19. BMSCE Mountaineering Club, Bangalore.
- 20 V. M. Raghavan Delhi
- 21 Mr & Mrs M. A. Ramakrishna

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK....

N.K. CHIDAMBAR

"The Climbers" came into existence in June 1984, with an objective to promote Mountaineering Activities, especially Rock—Climbing amongst the youth in Karnataka. Since then, in a period of less than three years, the club has developed into a Potential Body with a well marked and systematic growth. Apart from pioneering a good number of technical routes on the rock faces around Bangalore, our members have also greatly participated in many Himalayan activities.

Inspired by our successful maiden Himalayan Expedition to Jogin Peaks (May-June 1985), we have planned to organise Climbing Expeditions during Sept 1987, May 1988 and Sept. 1988. To meet the requirements for participation in the above expeditions, eleven trainees were sponsored for Basic Mountaineering Courses at the various Institutes during 1986 and more number to follow during the year 1987.

Plethora of Bee hives, Humidity, and Summer heat could not prevent five of our members from opening Rock-routes on the well-known Yana Spires. This Rock Climbing expedition organised during April 1986 was the first of its sort to the Yana Spires and it was a dream come true to many of us. It is planned to organise a similar venture during early 1987 with an objective of pioneering more routes on these beautiful Spires, which resemble a Gothic Cathedral.

Rock-climbing Camps/Courses conducted by us is a potential source to recognise fresh talent. High technical Standards is ensured in the syllabus and training is imparted with the help of a nucleus of trained mountaineers of vast Rock-climbing experience. Instructor to Trainee ratio is a vital factor, which decides the quality of training and camp strength is limited to Twenty-five trainees in Basic and Eight trainees for Advanced course, so as to provide individual attention to each trainee. Rocks of Kabbal are well explored and the training area is carefully chosen to suit the occasion, so as to build in a high level of enthusiasm among the trainees. Post-Course training sessions are organised for the novices who complete Basic training and these sessions are leadership oriented, thus preparing them to obtain primary membership of the club.

Our Equipment Stores has expanded greatly and is now centralised at our office under the maintenance of a Stores Incharge. Working to a goal of building an Equipment Stores, enough to cater to the needs of a Six Member Himalayan Climbing Expedition team and two sets of heading Standard Rock-climbing gear, we still have a long way ahead of us. It is necessary to commit ourselves to a task of achieving greater self-sufficiency during the coming year and the effort of every member is the need of the hour.

Greater co-ordination amongst the members in planning the day to day activities is the result of the regular Thursday meetings initiated since July 1986. Slide-shows, Talks, Discussions etc., at these meetings have generated a lot of involvement by the members in the affairs of the club.

A recent message from our Founder

President Mr. Harshavardhan, to the members comes to my mind at this stage which reads "LOOK UP AND THE STARS ARE FAR FROM YOU, ASPIRE TO REACH THEM AND WORK HARD, THEY ARE ALL YOURS!" I hope this carries through to every member to co-ordinate further to achieve the objectives of "THE CLIMBERS".

—O—

A REPORT OF THE 1986 GARHWAL HIMALYAN TWIN TREK.

Compiled by : SRINIVAS VIJAY B. N.

One fine afternoon in the middle of May 1986, during one of our weekly groupies we hit upon the idea of a Summer snow-free trek in the Himalayas. Our enthusiasm to get to the mountains spurred us in our efforts and all the planning for the trek was complete in about a week's time. We were to do two routes in the Upper Gangotri Region; one route would take us to Tapovan (a snow-field at 14,000 ft) the base camp for many a climbing expedition and the other would take us to Kedarnath via Panwalikanta (a place known for its picturesque view).

On 25th May, 1986, four of us embarked on this thrilling adventure. The team comprised of two Professors, namely Prof. M. N. Srinivasan and Prof. S. Souderanayagam of the Indian Insti-

tute of Science and Mr. M. N. Vijay & myself from the B.M.S. College of Engineering Mountaineering Club. Being a summer programme we had envisaged good weather and so were very lightly equipped. But, on reaching Gangotri (via Delhi, Rishikesh, Tehri and Uttar Kashi) on the 29th May, we were in for a Surprise as the conditions at Gangotri were quite in contrast to summer conditions and were even bordering on winter conditions so to say. It was overcast right through the day, raining in brief spells and had even snowed the day prior to our arrival there.

We were informed that the route from Gaumukh to Tapovan was completely snow-bound and that it was impossible to negotiate it without regular snow-

gear. A few falls had also been reported in that stretch a few days ago.

We started on our first leg of the trek on the 31st of May. The route took us to **Chidbaus**, Bhojbaus and finally to Gaumukh. The Chidbaus-Bhojbaus route was especially treacherous in patches. The path being only 5 to 6 inches wide at places. On one side there is a drop of about 200 to 300ft into the River Ganga. The other side is a mud-covered slope having innumerable loose boulders which keep rolling down arbitrarily in all sizes and shapes without rhyme or reason, in wanton fashion. The weather held out upto Bhojbaus but turned worse as we left Bhojbaus towards Gaumukh. By the time we reached Gaumukh it was 5 P.M. in the evening and it had started snowing heavily.

To proceed from Gaumukh to Tapovan in those inclement conditions was impossible and so we turned back to Bhojbaus to halt for the night. At Bhoj-Baus there is an Ashram run by Lalbaba who takes it upon himself to feed and shelter every person passing that way without any charge. Although Bhojbaus was so named because of the abundance of the Bhoj Pathra trees in those days, Lalbaba prefers to call it now as **Bhojan Baus** (a place where you can get free food).

It is sad to note that de-forestation has already taken heavy toll of the Bhoj Pathra trees in the region and if nothing is done to prevent this trend, it would be more apt to call it as Lalbaba's Bholan Baus in recognition of his service to humanity.

Since even after a day's halt at Bhoj Baus, we were unable to continue to Tapovan due to stubborn snow conditions we returned to Gangothri. From Gangothri we then reached Uttarkashi, where we were informed that our earlier planned second leg of the trek was inaccessible, as it was snow-bound which necessitated our change of our route. We thus set off on our stand-by route i.e., Uttar Kashi-Dodital trek. Leaving Uttarkashi at about 5 A.M. in the morning we reached Agoda (via Kaldiyan) a village half way to Dodital' by about 3 P.M. The stretch between Kaldiyan and Agoda was particularly strenuous and exciting as it was a continuous ascent and the fact that we were doing it with about 20 to 22 Kgs on our backs did not afford much help.

Resting at Agoda for about a day and a half, we then left for Dodital. This stretch also had some very steep climbs in patches. The entire Dodital route was Snow-free, although showers in the afternoons were very common. Our-route was on the slope of one of the hills and all the slopes of the adjacent hills were covered with thick green forests. Halting there one could see the green landscapes lined by silver snow-capped peaks in the background. In the valley below flows the river that originates at the Dodital lake. This river ultimately joins Ganga. On some parts of the Dodital trek it was so silent and eerie that the only sounds we heard were those of our own strained breathing, the trampling of dry leaves under our feet and the roaring, tumbling, sounds of the river below.

Reaching Dodital on the 5th June, we found that it was much smaller than we expected. Dodital is a lake which is at a height of about 12,000 ft. fed by the melting of a glacier. This is a fresh water lake as the river continuously empties the lake. Another special feature of this lake is that it is the habitat of the trout, thus making it an angler's delight. The local people give Dodital a mythological background for the belief that this was the bathing pool of the Goddesses of yore. This is also believed to be the place where Lord Ganesha got his elephant's head.

Myths or no myths, Dodital is a beautiful place, an ideal camping spot and an outdoorsman's delight. Returning to Uttar Kashi on the 8th of June, we made one more attempt on our earlier proposed route but in vain, as the snow conditions were still very bad.

We returned to Bangalore on the 16th of June, 1986, having successfully completed the twin Himalayan trek and adding another feather to the prestigious cap of our club.

—O—

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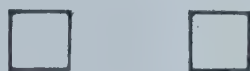
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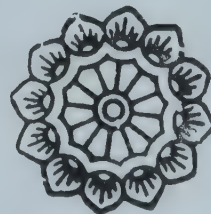
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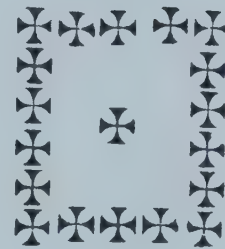
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JOGIN EXPEDITION :

— V. Kamallesh
(Team Leader)

Soon after its inception last June, our club planned its Maiden Himalayan Mountaineering expedition. We chose Jogin I (6464M) and Jogin III (6116M) in the Kedartal region of Garhwal Himalaya. JOGIN peaks are noted for its good number of technical difficulties with less logistic problems and hence was our choice. The primary objective was to attempt to scale either of the two peaks and the expedition which was proposed on a Low-budget was soon approved by Indian Mountaineering Foundation.

Arranging finance was a tough job, our thanks in this regard to timely donation from Chetan V. Shah and IAEC (BOMBAY) which helped to ease our financial position. Enthusiastic participation in the planning of the expedition by our club members made it possible for the expedition team to leave Bangalore on 15th May. The team consisted of T.G. GURUPRASAD (21 years), N. K. CHIDAMBAR (26 years), J.K. NAIR (29 years), DATTA-TREYA KARPUR (24 years) with V. KAMALESH (22 years) as the team leader. Mr. J. K. NAIR was supposed to leave Bangalore on 18th May and join the team by 21st.

The team reached Uttarkashi on 18th May and 19th was a very busy day, since the expedition Luggage had to be repacked, Equipments, and porters had to be arranged. Our Expedition Luggage was around 225 Kgs. and nearly 100 Kgs. was distributed amongst ourselves, for the remaining 125 Kgs. we recruited five

low altitude porters. A single High Altitude porter Mr. Jai Singh was also engaged for the expedition team.

Reaching Gangotri on 20th, we had planned a day of rest on 21st and Mr. Nair was expected to join us here before commencement of our approach march. All of us moved higher towards Bhuj Karak on 21st morning to get an idea of the route and the conditions ahead towards Kedartal. Mr. Nair joined us by late night after travelling continuously from Bangalore. We were ready to begin our approach march the next day (22nd).

Leaving Gangotri quite early in the morning, we moved into the Kedar Ganga Valley towards Bhuj Kharak, climbing through a steep path for about three and half hours and we camped at Bhuj Kharak.

Crossing Kedar Ganga at a couple of points, we reached Kedar Kharak (15,700 feet) the next day. During the whole night Guru was troubled by a severe headache and this caused sufficient anxiety as he had faced the same problem the previous night. It was therefore decided on 24th morning that Chidambar, Guru and J.K. Nair were to stay back at Kedar Kharak for acclimatisation, while Datta & myself had the task of establishing Base Camp along with the porters, we moved into Kedartal by Noon and were greeted by Mr. Shashi, who was the Liaison Officer attached to a Spanish expedition team attempting Thalayasagar. The whole lake was frozen and our Base

Camp was set around 14,500 feet. The camp site offered good views of Manda Group, Brighupanth and Thalayasagar,

Jai Singh moved down to Kedar Kharak (25th) to accompany the rest of the team to the Base Camp, while Datta and myself were engaged in collecting details of the conditions ahead from the members of the Spanish team. By noon Jai Singh returned to the Base Camp along with J.K. Nair and we learnt that Guru's condition was bad the previous day. To make matters worse their stove had completely failed to work and they spent the day without food. Jai Singh was again sent down to stay with Chidambar and Guru.

Our base camp was fully established on 26th, when Guru and Chidambar moved into Base Camp with their condition greatly improved, thanks to timely help from Jayanth and Kum Kum Khadalia (Brighupanth expedition) along with Rani and Uday (Jogin III expedition from Poona) who were also on the way to Kedartal. Same day we sorted out about 60 Kgs. of food and equipments which had to be moved into the higher camps.

Datta, J.K. Nair, myself and Jai Singh started early in the morning and we moved steadily for about two hours along the medial moraine of Kedar Bamak keeping in company to the true right was Manda Group, Brighupanth and Thalayasagar. We moved into the true left bank and established our camp I at around 15,200 feet. (27th May). It was ensured that the camp site would be safe from the huge stones that kept on shooting down from the ridge to our true left. Dumping the food and equipments at the camp site

we moved down to Base camp by 11A.M.

The two member team from Poona (Rani and Uday) also set up their camp at the same place and on the following day had an ambitious plan of attempting Jogin III from camp I and back in a single day.

We had faced a lot of problems in arranging equipments since our club being young, we landed up in the Base Camp with just one High-Altitude tent, added to this, of our two stoves one completely failed to work. It was decided therefore that three team members with the HAP would move up to Camp I and continue towards the summit. Two members had to stay back at Base Camp. The responsibility of reaching the summit was thus vested on the three members, who had to push the route to the summit.

Chidambar and Guru sportingly volunteered to stay at the Base camp and wished us Good luck as Datta, J.K. Nair myself and the HAP left them to occupy Camp I (28th). Guru accompanied us to camp I and moved down to Base Camp the same day. The two Poona members returned to camp I by dark fall and they had given up their attempt after climbing to about 18,000 feet, when they were stopped by huge crevasses.

Datta, J.K. Nair and Jai Singh left camp I on 29th morning to establish Camp II. The original plan was to traverse the Glacier and locate camp II at the base of a huge rock-wall adjoining the Ice-fall at the head of Kedar Bamak. We had observed that the condition of the glacier was worse as the snow was melting away,

hence the route to camp II was negotiated by traversing the morains along the true left bank of Kedar Bamak. Due to some confusion, camp II was established at the beginning of the Ice-fall (16,000 ft.) nearly a thousand feet below the actually planned camp-site and the entire Ice-fall still to negotiate. Rani and Uday were moving down to Base camp, a message was sent to our members through them to supplement our kerosene stock. Sufficient kerosene was required to melt snow for water above camp I. The weather turned worse and it snowed the whole Afternoon and through the Evening. Cornices were breaking away regularly from the ridge connecting Thalayasagar and Jogin, resulting in large Avalanches. Cornices and huge crevasses was the main reason for which we avoided the Eastern face leading to Jogin III. We planned to take the steep Gully at the head of Kedar Bank leading to the COL dividing Jogin I and Jogin III. The line up the Gully seemed difficult but was more safe from Avalanches than the Eastern face.

Guru moved up to camp I by 9 A.M. (30 th) and collecting the extra kerosene, myself and Datta moved towards camp II. If possible they were to continue as high as possible to dump the equipments, thus making it easy to establish and occupy camp III in one single day on 31st. Our efforts turned fruitless as it started snowing by noon when myself and Datta reached the camp site of Camp II (16,000 Feet). We could see J.K. Nair and Jai Singh returning back towards us after dumping their loads at around 17,000 feet near the foot of the Gully (adjoining the Ice-fall at the base of the Rock-Wall)

leading to the COL between Jogin I and Jogin III.

On the 31st, we shifted our camp II to the new-site i.e. at 17,000 feet, where the load was dumped the previous day. It was quite an adventurous task as we moved up through the Ice-fall without fixing any rope, occupying our new camp II, we reviewed our situation and realised that we had food to last just about two days and little over. We had no other choice than to establish the route to the camp III and occupy it on the following day. It was necessary to make an attempt as light weight as possible since load ferry was out of question.

Choosing only the most essential items we made an early start towards the Gully. The Gully was very steep and about 1000 feet in height. The snow covering the Gully was quite soft and we decided to climb to the top unroped. It was noon when we gained the top of the Gully and the whole area was crevassed, the weather which was clear all the while turned worse suddenly and the visibility reduced to a few metres due to white out. This made it difficult to locate a safe camp site and we somehow managed to set up our tent next to a crevasse on a sloping ground at the Edge of the top of the Gully. We soon occupied our camp III at 18,500 feet. The weather remained bad the whole evening, causing sufficient anxiety as we were to make our summit attempt the next day. We decided to make an early start with Jogin III as our first objective and then if possible (keeping in view the time) to try an attempt on Jogin I on the same day.

2nd June, waking up by 4 A.M. I had

the privilege of melting snow to cook oats which was our daily breakfast. Our start was delayed as our HAP was not keeping good health. We finally set ourselves towards the summit by 7 A.M. Moving up, the whole area was badly crevassed. We progressed steadily for about an hour climbing towards the COL when Datta decided to turn back to camp III due to some uneasiness J.K. Nair was climbing ahead with myself closely behind him and Jai was far below up pulling his way up. The climb to the top of the COL (between Jogin I and Jogin III) was very steep and was marked by a series of large crevasses and had to be carefully negotiated. Nair and myself climbed to the top of the COL by 10 A.M. and it was about 200 feet of gradual climb along the top of the ridge to the summit of Jogin III. The North Eastern ridge of Jogin I was immediately tempting and the view of landscape on the other side of the ridge towards Khatling was very beautiful. We decided to wait for Jai who was still below and the weather which had remained absolutely clear all the way suddenly turned worse. Jai slowly reached to us and the weather continued getting worse and soon visibility was reduced to zero due to a white-out. Quite disappointed, we had to wait for the weather to clear-out. we were losing time and by 11 A.M. we made a decision to pursue ahead very carefully as the ridge was corniced & we were moving still unroped. Moving past Jogin I, we soon got a hazy sight of summit of Jogin III in front of us, totally enveloped by thick white clouds. It was 11-29 A.M. when J.K. Nair myself and Jai reached the summit, we spent nearly thirty minutes on the summit. trying to expose photo-

graphs in spite of the white-out. All that which was faintly visible was N.E. Ridge and N.W. Face of Jogin I. Eventhough we reached the summit, we were unlucky to miss the sights of other peaks in the surroundings due to the white-out. Weather seemed to grip us more and more, a quick descent was important and Datta was quite relieved to see us back at camp III safely. It took us just about 40 minutes for the descent compared to about 4 hours of climb to the top from camp III. The same night, we faced a horrifying time as a snow-storm played havoc with our tent at camp III nearly three hours. The fact that our tent was pitched at the edge on the top of the Gully bothered us since in case of any mishap, we would have rolled down more than a thousand feet into the crevasses and the ice-fall. Four of us in one tent supporting it by all possible means saw us through the situation. Later, we learnt that some of the tents of the Spanish expedition had collapsed resulting in loss of food etc., due to the same.

3rd June by 8 A.M., we began our descent from camp III. Climbing down steadily at a good pace we made it right down to Base camp at one go. We were quite anxious to give the news of our success to Guru, Chidi and also to learn their condition as they were left neither with a good tent nor a stove to cook food. Obviously we had decided to call off our attempt on Jogin I.

Reaching Base camp at around 3p.m. (Evening) we were totally surprised to see a carnival of tents at the Base camp which were established by a large team

from Delhi also to attempt Jogin III. Chidi and Guru had managed by borrowing a stove from the Poona team. Guru and Jai moved up on 5th of June to wind up camp I. Free time in Base camp was utilised to practise rock climbing around Kedar Tal jointly with the members of spanish Thalaya Sagar expedition.

Two porters were employed for our return march and they turned up to the base camp on 6th Evening Bidding Good bye to our friends from other expeditions at the Base camp, we began our return march by 10 a.m. (7th June). Every one made it to Gangotri by 5 p.m. and on the same day, we moved down to Lanka. We were back in Uttarkasi on 8th where we had to return the equipments borrowed from Dias memorial stores

NIM. We moved from Delhi on 13th and were back in Bangalore on 16th early morning, completing our expedition.

Good team work and co-operation was mainly responsible for the success of our maiden Himalayan expedition inspite of many hurdles like lack of good equipments etc. Above Base Camp, all members kept good Health without any Health upsets and returning safely without any accident or injury after climbing a twenty thousander was the biggest element of our success.

Lastly, I thank on behalf of the team members to all organisations, club members and our patrons, without whose timely help we could not have undertaken the expedition.

—O—

Team Members : Jogin Climbing Expedition

(May June 1985)

V. Kamalesh,	Team leader
N. K. Chidambar,	Team member
Datatreya Karpur,	Team member
J. K. Nair,	Team member
T. G. Guruprasad,	Team member

ROCK CLIMBING AND EXPLORATION EXPEDITION TO YANA

HARSHAVARDHAN SUBBARAO

The following article is an account of the pioneering Rock climbing and Exploration Expedition to the unique tall rock spires at Yana from 4th April to 9th April by 'The Climbers'. The team consisted of N. K. Chidambar, V. Kamallesh, Harshavardhan Subbarao, Prakash, K. and Krishna Prasad, K.

Location and History

Yana is situated amidst the dense tropical rain forest of North Kanara district, Karnataka. It can be approached from either Sirsi or Kumta the nearest towns. From roadhead on either side the approach involves considerable trekking. Added to this is the heavy load to be ferried due to the non-availability of porters and provisions. However, the approach routes pass through dense jungles and glades opening into sudden meadows of sunlight. Water is in plenty in the form of rivulets flowing in the unique picturesque surrounds.

The temple at the base of the main Yana Spires is enclosed in a deep cave and is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of Bairaveshwara. According to the local myth the temple dates back to the times of the Pandavas. A crude pipeline of supported hollow tree trunks brings water to the precincts from a far source.

Unique Rock Formations of Yana

Turning a corner, one is at once struck by the breath taking view of the Yana Spires above the dense under-

growth as one approaches from the Sirsi side. There are two spires as seen from this turn. The one dead ahead is 'No-Bee Spire' and the other towards the left is the main spire 'Bee-Spire'. More than a hundred Rock-Bee hives present the most obvious danger to climb in this area.

The rock appears black and on splintering provides a white inner surface. It has a number of sharp jagged protrusions. These protrusions though fragile, exhibit considerable strength and provide necessary holds on the climbs. Razor sharp aretes and tall columnar projections makeup most of the upper sections of the massifs. For the climbing enthusiasts a few chimney and jam lines along with the steep razor sharp like ridges present the obvious weak lines.

There are a good number of lesser spires which seem to merge with the forest itself. Vegetation covers some of these spires much like what is seen in Steven Spielberg's 'Raiders of the Lost Ark'.

Rock Climbing Routes and Caving

We opened three routes, all on 'Bee-Spire'. 'Razor-Ridge' on the west face was a 120 ft severe climb with decent protection.

'Pigeon Spire' on the East face starts off from a big ledge of easy access and climbs vertically upwards in a classic dihedral for 70 ft at HS with the crux

move at the top into a pigeon's nest at 5c (slippery due to pigeon excreta). There is a 20 ft traverse and a short vertical yet exposed pinch hold climb of 30ft (Vertical Shaft) into a mildly overhanging entrance (6 a) to a long chimney (VS) which culminates at more or less the top. Above this are the tall columnar like blocks which would probably require bolting. The entire climb is very exposed. Overall climb is in VS. The second and third pitches and chimney are devoid of good protection. The chimney walls are extremely rough.

Penetrating a cave with some difficulty on the eastern aspect we chanced upon an inner sanctum, an arena open only at the top to the sky. We did a small climb of 100 ft, in 3 pitches. The first pitch being an extremely exposed ridge traverse of 30 ft with no protection(s). Next, clearing a small overhang is the crux of the second pitch. The route now turns towards the other side and ascends upto the top of an individual spire at severe grading. We named this route 'Xylo-Spire' because of the peculiar ringing sound exhibited on tapping the small pinnacles along the climb.

The most rewarding part of our expedition was the exploration of the cave systems in both 'Bee-Spire' and 'No-Bee Spire'. One speculates at the formation and existence of these caves. They are filled with bats and possibly lesser wild creatures. They are dark and dank. Roped manoeuvres are required at some places especially where the caves ascend and descend. Fallen boulders provide minor obstacles in cave exploration.

Comments and Suggestions

This is definitely not a paradise for Rock-Climbing. Only those of supreme technical climbing skill can put up a couple of routes to the summits of these spires. Artificial as well as free climbing is called for and the ethics of 'bolting' are then in question. The high temperature and humidity of summer, does not allow for Rock-Climbing. The other dangers are patches of moss on the face and the rock-bees which may attack, if provoked while migrating between spires. A fall could lead to serious consequences on the sharp pinnacles and ridges below.

Two possible routes have been identified on 'No Bee Spire' One route 300 ft. high calls for both free and artificial climbing. Protection is sparse and the upper portions risky. One has to be a 'Hard-Man' for this climb (H.V.S. A2+). The other route has an overhanging start involving 40 ft of bolting and 100 ft A2+ & A3, artificial climbing along a thin crack and terminates with a 50 ft. H. V. S. free section. The chief difficulties on this route which faces the temple are the bolting pitch and the change from aid to free climbing.

The best month for trekking, exploration and climbing are Nov-Feb. Bird watchers should find this place a paradise.

Epilogue

If the beauty of this place is to be preserved for posterity it must be declared as a sanctuary and protected as such. As yet the vagaries of man have not found expression in the environment

of the Yana area. This tropical rain forest along with the Silent Valley are the last bastions of genuine rain forest in India.

The temple is unique and the hospitality of the poojari is kindness itself.

We beseech all Campers, Explorers and visitors to the area, not to litter the jungles and temple surroundings. Let's not disturb Nature and yet let us be a part

of it'.

It could be said that popularity and publicity might be detrimental to the unique environment.

To live in isolation for three four days here is the very poetry of adventure.

For further details on the routes, slides, photographs etc, contact :

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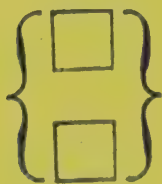
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SELECTION OF GOOD CLIMBING ROUTES

V. KAMALESH

Climbing boulders on week-ends at Turali, may be fun and exciting: no doubt these small climbs demand the best from a climber as far as technical applications are considered. One may improve and master the various movements offered by these boulders, but under what complexions are these climbs made?

Firstly, much attention is not devoted to rope management and secondly "Exposure" the most important factor is generally absent. Due to these reasons, climbs on boulders, which may be of any degree is usually done very casually.

Speed is an asset and time consciousness is very vital to a climber who is serious about his career. A budding novice who addicts himself to boulder climbs generally finds himself lacking in the above two requirements, hence it is very vital that he should introduce himself to bigger climbs on rock faces.

The rock faces of Ramanagaram, Kabbal etc. provide limitless opportunities to those wishing to engage themselves more seriously in this thrilling sport. The true sense of rock-climbing is experienced only on such climbs involving many pitches, where the whole complexion of things are different.

Judging good climbing routes, sound climbing techniques, efficient rope-management, skill in placing runners and selecting good belay stances etc. are some of the most important requirements

in a climber, who sets out to lead such lengthy routes.

Judgement of good climbing routes is the most important factor deciding the success or failure of a climb. The word 'Judgement' doesn't merely mean selecting a route, but the route is climbed theoretically, thereby anticipating the problems which may arise while climbing the route practically. This factor gives a wider scope for better planning and lesser accidents.

The below given procedure, I hope will help in judging the climbing routes while attempting rock-faces. The actual process can be divided into the following heads for convenience.

I) AVAILABLE EXPERTISE :

The route should always be planned by the leader (or the group) in accordance to the experience and technical ability of the individual members. Climbing Standards should be improved progressively and planning anything which is beyond one's reach, either due to ignorance or out of overconfidence may lead to misadventure. The experience of each member should be carefully assessed before deciding any route. Inexperienced climbers should not be preferred while attempting virgin climbing lines.

II) EQUIPMENT

Equipment should be sufficient in number and good in quality. While attempting a route which has been climbed, the equip-

ments required may be listed by contacting the previous party. If not, the climb may be imagined to be a virgin one and the following equipments seem sufficient, for a climb of about 400 feet for a roped party of three members.

Climbing ropes : 2 Nos., Seat harness : 2 Nos., Piton hammer : 2 Nos., Mittens : 3 pair, Slings : 15 Nos Carabinars : 15 Nos, pitons assorted set, chocks : assorted set, stirrup : 1 pair. It should be assured that each climber should always be provided with a Screw-gate Carabinar and a sling at all times, for use during emergency. Channels, Leepers and V-angle pitons are the ones which hold and grip the maximum when used either for runner placements or anchoring at belay stances. Channel pitons were so instrumental in our recent successful climbs on Kabbal South-wall.

II) OBSERVATION :

This is the important process which helps in selecting a route. While observing the face for a route, points I and II above should always be borne in mind and further the face should be studied for the following points.

1) TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES : The degree of technical difficulties posed to the climber should be carefully analysed and this should match with the experience of the group, as already discussed in I. The proper assessment of difficulties posed by a climb is rather difficult to judge from ground level. One acquires this art by experience and practice. Special attention should be given to judging the difficulties posed by overhangs, traverses etc. which are generally

deceptive from ground level.

2) BELAY STANCES : If all the belay stances can be planned from the ground level itself, this would be the most pleasant thing for the leader, for he has to only climb to the stances there by completing the climb. Lot of time is wasted while climbing, if the belay stances are not planned properly. If the route offers many pitches of short lengths, the time required to complete the climb may be more, but it is more safe in case of any leader fall.

3) ESCAPE ROUTE : These are easy routes at close proximity to the selected route through which the party can descend in case of a failure. Presence of a good escape route helps us to avoid i) a possible benightment on the rock-face ii) risk of abseiling down an unfinished route.

IV) TIME :

Climbing routes should always be planned to the time available. Planning the route to a tight time schedule may lead to a benightment. It is very important to start the climb as early as possible. Lot of time is generally consumed in rope-management rather than the actual climb. Hence, time required to complete a climb is always influenced by efficient rope-management of the climbing party.

V) SACK HAULING :

It is a very well experienced fact that improper rope-management while Sack hauling on long rock faces upsets the planned climbing schedule. Problems expected due to sack-hauling should be borne in mind while selecting rock-routes rigid framed sacks should be generally

avoided as these tend to get jammed at every nook and it is in this regard that the last member of the rope should not be entrusted with sack-hauling. Depending upon the length of the climb, number and nature of pitches, it can be decided whether to adopt single rope or double rope system. Double rope system apart from being the versatile remedy for sack hauling problems also greatly reduces rope drag during traversing and zig-zagging up.

A set of alloy pulleys proves a great advantage on long rock faces for sack hauling and rescue operations. Well planned sack hauling system greatly reduces the overall climbing time.

VI) FIRST AID :

Proper first aid materials should be always carried by the group. This has to be checked

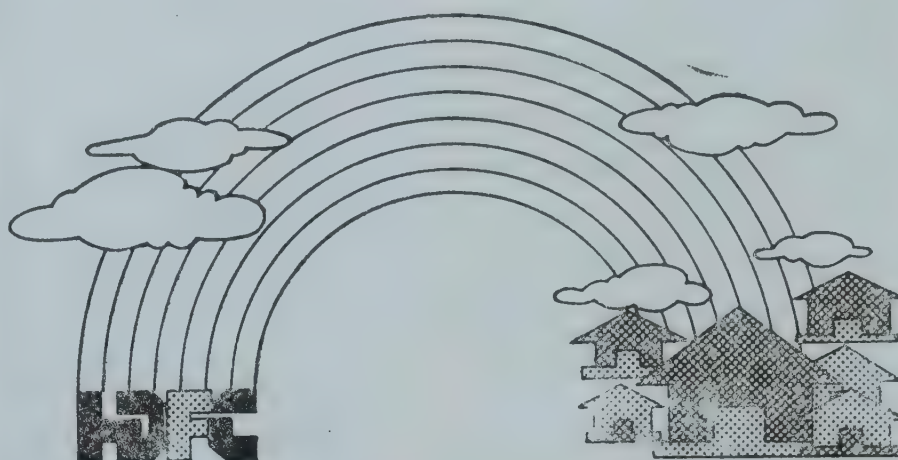
before the climb and should be carried by any member in the group except the leader.

VII) GENERAL DISCUSSION :

The route which is selected after considering all the above points, should be finalised after a discussion with all the members. This helps in better co-ordination because each member will be aware of the plan for the day.

Even the most well planned routes many a time offer unexpected difficulties to the climbing group. These situations should be cleared by good presence of mind and application. It is here, the best co-ordination is expected from every member to the leader, to help him to solve the problems. Lastly before starting any climb, remember your motto "SAFE CLIMBING".

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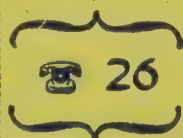


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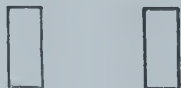
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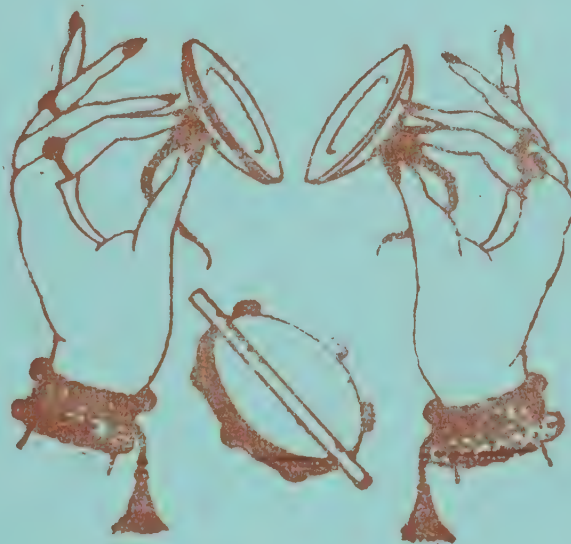
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20ನೇ ಶತಮಾನದ ಸಾಹಸದತ್ತ ಒಂದು ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲು :

ಚಿಕ್ಕ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಸವೆಂದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಭಾವನೆಗಳೇ ಬೇರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕುತೂಹಲ ಕಾರಿಯೂ ಹೌದು. ಆದರೆ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ದೊಡ್ಡವರಾದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಾಹಸದ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳನ್ನು ಓದುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅವನ್ನು ನಮಗೆ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಕಷ್ಟವೇ ಸರಿ. ಆದರೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವರು ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಉದಾಸೀನ ತಾಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಪಾಯದ ಹೆದರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ, ಆದರೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಸಾಹಸ, ಎಂಬ ಶಬ್ದವನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಮೆದುಳು ಚಕಿತಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಹಸವೆಂದರೇನು ? ಮತ್ತು ಎಂತಹ ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗ ವಹಿಸಬಹುದು ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳೇಳುತ್ತವೆ. ಆದರೆ ನಾನು ಬರೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸಾಹಸ ಅದಲ್ಲ, ಇದು ಅನೇಕ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದಾದ ಸಾಹಸ ಕ್ರೀಡೆ.

ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಅಂತಹ ಸಾಹಸ ಮಾಡದಿದ್ದರೂ ಅದೊಂದು ತರಬೇತಿ ಶಿಬಿರವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಶಿಬಿರವನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ “ದಿ ಕ್ಲೈಂಬರ್ಸ್” ಪರ್ವತಾರೋಹಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಜೂನ್ 21ರಿಂದ 25ರವರೆಗೆ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನು ಮದ್ರಾಸ್ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್‌ನವರು ಅಲಸೂರು ಕೊಳದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಇದು ನವದೆಹಲಿಯ ಆರ್ಮಿ ಅಡ್ವೆಂಚರ್ ಫೌಂಡೇಶನ್‌ರವರ ಕರುಣೆಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ನಾಗರಿಕರಿಗೆ ಸೇನೆಯವರ ಕೊಡುಗೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಈ ಶಿಬಿರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮ್ಯಾಪ್ ಓದುವುದು, ಪ್ರಥಮ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ, ದೋಣಿ ನಡೆಸುವುದು, ಕೆಲವು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಿ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತೇಲುವುದು, ಬೊಂಬು ಮತ್ತು ಹಲಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಿ ತೆಪ್ಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡುವುದು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸೇನಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕೇಂದ್ರದವರು ನಡೆಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ಇವರ ಜೊತೆ ಸೇರವಾಗಿ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲು ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಂತ ವಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿ, ನಮಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಕಲಿಯಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ವಾಯಿತು. ತರಬೇತಿಯ ಮೊದಲು ದಿನ ಮ್ಯಾಪ್

ಎಂದರೇನು ? ಅದನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಓದುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೇಗೆ ನಾವು ಬೇರೆ ಜಾಗಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವುದು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಂಪಾಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೊಟ್ರಾಕ್ಟರ್ ಗಳ ಸಹಾಯದಿಂದ ಕಲಿತೆವು. ಎರಡನೆ ದಿನ ಕೂಡ ಇದು ಮುಂದುವರಿಯಿತು. ಅಂದು ರಾತ್ರಿ ನಾವು ನಡೆದು ಕೊಂಡು ಅವರ ವಿಶಾಲವಾದ ಒಂದು ಮೈದಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದೆವು. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ನಮಗೆ ನಕ್ಷತ್ರಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ದಿಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಹಿಡಿಯುವುದನ್ನು ಕಲಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಮತ್ತು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಐದು ಜನರ ಗುಂಪು ಮ್ಯಾಪ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಂಪಾಸ್ ಸಹಾಯದಿಂದ ನಾವು ಸೇರಬೇಕಾದ ಸ್ಥಳವನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಸೇರುವುದು ಎಂಬುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಅನಂತರ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲ ಇದನ್ನು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಮಾಡಿ ತೋರಿಸಿದೆವು. ಇದು ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಕುತೂಹಲಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಮೂರನೆಯ ದಿನ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಈ ತರಬೇತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗಾಯಗೊಂಡ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವೈದ್ಯರು ಬರುವ ಮುಂಚೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾದ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ, ಇದು ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಉಪಯೋಗಕಾರಿ. ಹಾವು ಕಡಿತ, ಮೂಳೆ ಮುರಿತ, ಶೀತದ ಕಡಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಸಣ್ಣ ಪುಟ್ಟ ಗಾಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಕೊಡುವ ರೀತಿಯನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಗಾಯಗೊಂಡವರಿಗೆ ವಿವಿಧ ರೀತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಕಟ್ಟುವ ವಿಧಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಅವರನ್ನು ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಗಿಸುವ ರೀತಿ, ಬಾಯಿಂದ ಉಸಿರು ಕೊಡುವುದು, ಹೃದಯದಡೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಜ್ಜಿಸುವುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದರು ಮತ್ತು ಈ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಗಳನ್ನು ನಾವೇ ಸ್ವತಃ ಮಾಡಿದೆವು. ಇದು ನಿತ್ಯ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡಲು ಬಹಳ ಉಪಯೋಗವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಾಲ್ಕನೆಯ ದಿನ ದೋಣಿ ನಡೆಸುವುದರ ಕಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಈಜುವ ಸಹಾಯಕ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ವಿವರಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಿರಚಿತ್ರಗಳ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು ಮತ್ತು ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಳುಗುವವರನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸುವ ವಿಧಾನಗಳನ್ನು

ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಅಂದು ಸಂಜೆ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲ ಲೈಫ್ ಜಾಕೆಟ್ ಧರಿಸಿ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತೇಲಿದೆವು. ಈ ಅನುಭವ ಬಹಳ ಅಪೂರ್ವವಾದುದು.

ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನ ಅಂದರೆ ಐದನೆ ದಿನ ಸುಧಾರಿಸಿದ ಕೆಲವು ತೆಪ್ಪಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿಕೊಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರು ವಿಧ.

- 1) ಡರ್ಫ ಕೋರ್ಸ್.
- 2) ವಾಟರ್ ಮಾನ್ಸ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್.
- 3) ಕ್ಲಿ ಕೆಸ್ಟ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್.

ಅಂದು ದೋಣಿಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಭಾಗಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಸುವ ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿಯುವ ಮುಂದೆ ಪಾಲಿಸುವ ಮನ್ನಾಚನೆಗಳು,

ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತವಾಗಿ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೋಗುವುದು ಮುಂತಾದವುಗಳನ್ನು ಸುಲಭ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಅಂದು ಸಂಜೆ ನಾವು ವಿವಿಧ ರೀತಿಯ ತೆಪ್ಪಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ತೇಲಿದೆವು.

ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ತರಬೇತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದವರಿಗೆ ಉಪಯೋಗವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಕರು ಪ್ರಯಾಸಪಟ್ಟು ನಮಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಮನಮುಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ಈ ತರಬೇತಿ ಶಿಬಿರ ನಮಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಮರೆಯಲಾಗದಂತಹ ಒಂದು ಅನುಭವ. ಈ ಶಿಬಿರವನ್ನು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಶ್ರಮಿಸಿದ ಮದ್ರಾಸ್ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ನವರಿಗೂ ಮತ್ತು ದಿ ಕ್ಲೈಂಬರ್ಸ್ ಪದಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಧನ್ಯವಾದಗಳು.

ಎನ್. ಸುಮಂಗಲಿ.

—O—

LIFE MEMBERS

- 1) Chidambar N. K.
- 2) Chetan V. Shah
- 3) Harshavardhan Subbarao
- 4) Haridas Kaliath
- 5) Jyothi T.
- 6) Dattatreya Karpur
- 7) Sampath Kumar T. S.
- 8) M. N. Vijay
- 9) H. K. Rajshekhar

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THE CLIMBERS

1.0 DETAILS OF THE COURSES CONDUCTED BY US

The club holds regular Rock Climbing courses both Basic and Advance, numerous Rock Climbing Camps and serious weekend Rock Climbing outings. The courses are invariably subsidised heavily and organised inhouse. Last time the courses was organised by us with instructors from NIM, Uttarkashi. Most members climb at HS, A2 and above and instruct at Rock Climbing courses conducted by various other clubs.

The following chart presents an outline of the courses conducted by us for public and with/for our affiliated clubs within 3 years since the inception of 'The Climbers' :

DATE (1)	NATURE OF COURSES (2)	VENUE OF ROCK FIELDS (3)	FINANCIAL DETAILS (4)
1-4/5/84	ADVANCE ROCK CLIMBING 12 particitpants	Kabbaladurga	Rs. 3,500.00 Self subsidised
7-10/3/85	BASIC AND ADVANCE ROCK CLIMBING, Conducted for Affiliated Body BMS Mountaineering Club	Kabbaladurga	Rs. 4,500.00 Subsidised partly by District Youth Services Board of Rs. 1,500.00
6-9/2/86	BASIC AND ADVANCE ROCK CLIMBING 48 participants Instructors from NIM, Uttarkashi	Kabbaladurga	Rs. 10,000.00 subsidised partly by District Youth Services Board of Rs. 5,000.00

THE CLIMBERS

20-23/3/86	BASIC ROCK CLIMBING Conducted for Affiliated Body BMS Mountaineering Club 30 Members	Kabbaladurga	Rs. 4,500.00 Self Subsidised
21-25/6/86 29, 6 and 13th July	FIRST 8 DAYS COMPREHENSIVE ADVENTURE COURSE in River Rafting outdoor Navigation, Map Reading, Basic First Aid, Improvised Swimming Aids and Rock Climbing (3 sundays) 25 participants.	Kabbaladurga Ramanagaram Savanadurga Turalli Rock Fields. Madras Engineering Group and Centre, Bangalore. In Technical Collaboration with Madras Engineering Group & Centre, B'lore under kind courtesy of The Army Adventure Foundation, New Delhi.	Totally Subsidised by the Army Adventure Foundation, New Delhi through Madras Engineering Group and 'The Climbers
13-15/9/86	BASIC ROCK CLIMBING Conducted for our affiliated club Association of Young Adventurers 13 Members	Kabbaladurga	Self-Subsidised Rs. 2,500.00

Apart from the above formal training courses organised by us within our 3 years of inception, we have also conducted numerous Advanced Rock Climbing Sessions of which a few are listed below :

THE CLIMBERS

DATE	VENUE	FINANCE DETAIL
20-22/10/84	Savanadurga 2 members	Self styled
12-14/01/85	Savanadurga 3 members	Self styled
04-09/04/86	Yana, North Karnataka. First ever Rock Climbing expedition to attempt the imposing rock spires of Yana. 5 members.	Rs. 2,000.00 25% subsidised by 'The Climbers'
18-20/04/86	Savanadurga 6 members	Self styled
26-28/04/86	Achulubetta Bangalore District 5 members	Self styled

TECHNIQUES IMPARTED DURING BASIC ROCK CLIMBING COURSE

- Introduction to Rope Craft covering ropes, their maintenance, knots and coils.
- Scrambling on rock slopes to build a good sense of body balance.
- Use of various kinds of holds.
- Three point climbing on boulders & faces.
- Thorough drilling of the various methods of belaying (artificial and body)
- Introduction to chimneying, laybacking, jamming techniques and practise on different grades.
- Introduction to rappelling techniques and practice.
- Evening theoretical sessions with slide shows.
- Attendance of four post course climbing sessions are mandatory to receive course certificates.

THE CLIMBERS

TECHNIQUES IMPARTED DURING ADVANCE ROCK CLIMBING COURSE

- Revision of Basic Rock Craft.
- Multi-Pitch Climbing on rock faces over 200 feet.
- Introduction to and practice of artificial climbing.
- Introduction to and practice of fixed rope, routine, jumaring and prussiking.
- Load climbing on a virgin route and rappelling of it to be attempted by the trainees.
- Artificial traverse like pendulum, tension, and Tyrolean traverses.
- Theoretical sessions on Advanced aspects of Rock Climbing like rope management, choice of good and safe climbing routes etc.
- Attendance of four post course climbing sessions are mandatory to receive course certificates.

NATURE OF ROCKS AVAILABLE AT OUR CLIMBED SITES IN BANGALORE DIST

PLACE (1)	NATURE OF ROCK WITH HEIGHT (2)	DISTANCE (3)	CAMPING FACILITY (4)
Turalli	Granite and Syenite Porphyry. Plenty of boulders. Alt 3000 FSL	12 Km	Not available
Ramanagaram	Granite Porphyry rock faces of 300 ft and above Alt. 3500 FSL	50 Km	Schools, Travellers Bungalows Rest House Choultries

THE CLIMBERS

Kabbaldurga	Granite and Syenite Porphyry faces of 300 ft and above with virgin routes Alt 3500 FSL	75 Km	Schools Temples
Achulubetta	Granite and Syenite Porphyry faces of 300 ft with virgin routes Alt 3200 FSL	60 Km Enroute Kabbaladurga	Schools Temples
Savanadurga	Granite and Syenite Porphyry faces of 1000 ft with good and virgin routes Alt 4200 FSL	60 Km	Schools Temples Choulteries

The rocks are 'Clean' free of rock fall zones, with good belay stances and good runner placements. Some of the most Exhilarating climbing can be had on these routes. Virgin routes are unaccountable. All types of rock climbing at various grades is possible on these crags and faces.

LIST OF ROUTES OPENED AS ON DATE BY "THE CLIMBERS"

SL No.	ROUTE	LENGTH (ft)	No. of PITCHES	GRADING	REMARKS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
I TURALLI :					
1.	"PARADISE" AREA (50 routes)	10 to 40	Single	V. Diff-HVS	Clean bouldering Jamm- ing Crag climbing
2.	"PARADISE REGA- INED" AREA (10 routes)	20-30	Single	V. Diff-MXS	—
3.	'FOREST BOULDERS, AREA	20-40	Single	H.S	—

THE CLIMBERS

II RAMANAGARAM

1.	'ONKAL' EAST FACE	200	Three	Mild, s	Friction climbing
2.	'ONKAL' RIDGE	200	Three	3	Crux 5c
3.	BASIC BOULDERS	10-15	Single	V.Diff-S	
4.	'CAMEL ROCK'	25	Single	HVS	Hand Tra-verse Invol-ved
5.	RAMGIRI BOULDERS (7-8 Nos)	15-20	Single	S-MXS	Over hangs & Chimney
6.	RAMGIRI PILLARS (3 routes)	200	Three	HVS	Chimney & Bridging
7.	'BEE SCARE'	250	Three	VS	Lay Back
8.	'GET TOGETHER'	100	Single	Mild-S	No. runners
9.	HEADS & SHOULDERS	350	Four	VS	Overhangs & traverse

III IBRAHIM'S FARM AREA

1.	'BUG BEAR'	200	Three	H. S.	Crux 6a
2.	'HAA !'	400	Five	H. S.	200 ft Traverse
3.	'CONFIDENCE SLAB'	150	Two	Mild HS	Friction climbing & Jamming
4.	'SUNDERRAJAN'	300	Four	S	Friction climbing & Jamming

THE CLIMBERS

5.	'LOST SHOES'	330	Four	S	—
6.	'COME AGAIN'	200	Three	Mild S	—
7.	'DECEPTION'	450	Four	H.S	CRUX 5c/6a

IV MADAPURA

1.	'ANAMIKA I'	150	Four	H.S	Climney & Jamming
2.	'MEZNINE ROOF'	200	Four	HVS	Crux A3 + Artificial

V KABBAL DURGA

1.	'INNOCENT	300	Five	H.S	
2.	'MERCY'	250	Four	H.S	
3.	'APPLE-PIE'	250	Five	H S	
4.	'M.E.S'	250	Three	S	
5.	'ANAMIKA-II'	200	Three	Mild-S	
6.	'BASIC I & II	100	Single	S	
7.	'RURP'	70	Single	A2	Artificial
8.	'ANCHOR! ANCHOR! OWL!	150	Three	S	Buckets
9.	'JESUS CHRIST'	250	Four	VS	Buckets
10.	ANXIOUS	300	Five	HVS	Overhangs & Traverses

THE CLIMBERS

VI SAVANDURGA

1.	'EXAM LOOSE'	1200	Eight	HS	Crux 6a
2.	'FIVE MEN ARMY'	500	Four	V. Diff	—
3.	'DEEPAWALI'	1100	Seven	H.S.	Crux 5c
4.	'VARIATION'	1100	Seven	H S.	Crux 5c

VII YANA

1.	'PIGEON SPIRE'	120	Single	H.S.	
2.	'RAZOR RIDGE'	120	Two	S	
3	'XYLO SPIRE'	100	Two	V.Diff	

VIII ACHULU BETTA (KANAKAPURA)

1.	'ANG KAMI'	400	Five	H.V.S.	Crux 6a
2.	'MAY DAY'	400	Six	H.S.	Traversing involved

IX SHOOLAGIRI

1.	'INFATUATION'	400	Six	Mild H.S.	Crux pitch A2
2.	UN-NAMED PILLAR	70	Two	H.S.	Good runners

X MUTHARAYANA KALLU

1.	BLOODY MARIE'	60	One	Mild S	Artificial
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THE CLIMBERS

XI RAGGI HALLI

1. 'WALK OVER'	200	Two	Mild HS	Crux 5c
2. 'ELEPHANT WALK'	200	Two	Mild-S	Friction Climbing
3. 'FOX-TROT'	100	Two	Mild-S	Jamming

Abbreviations Used

GRADING :

XS	:	Extremely severe
MXS	.	Mild Extremely severe
HVS	:	Hard Very Severe
VS	:	Very severe
HS	:	Hard severe
S	:	Severe
VDIFF	:	Very Difficult
DIFF	:	Difficult
A	:	Artificial

CRUX MOVE :

5a		
5b		
5c		
6a		
6b		
6c		
A1	:	Artificial
A2	:	Artificial (Traverse & Difficult)
A3	:	Artificial (Mild roof)
A4	:	Artificial (tough roof or bolting)

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